

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00306 101707Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101822Z 127035 /50

P 101601Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4178

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0306

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, GY
SUBJECT: LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, FEBRUARY 6

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0209, (B) GEORGETOWN 0283

SUMMARY: DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 6, FONMIN WILLS ADMITTED GUYANA'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, CRITICIZED SOME OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES, EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT GOG CHANCES FOR OBTAINING MONEY FROM NIGERIA AND LIBYA AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL ANTIPATHY ABOUT THE BRITISH AND OVER CUBAN AMBASSADOR'S ATTEMPTS TO USE RACE TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH WILLS. THE MORE I SEE OF WILLS, THE MORE HIS SENSITIVITY AND AMBIVALENCE ON RACE EMERGES. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN WILLS, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FIANCEE, HAD LUNCH AT MY RESIDENCE FEBRUARY 6. ALTHOUGH THE CONVERSATION WAS PRIMARILY SOCIAL, WILLS MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS CONCERNING SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WHICH ARE REPORTED HEREIN. SOME FACETS OF HIS ATTITUDES ABOUT RACE, THE BRITISH AND THE CUBANS ARE ALSO COVERED IN THIS MESSAGE.

2. HE INQUIRED WHETHER I COULD TELL HIM ANYTHING OF THE STATUS OF HIS REQUEST TO SEE SECRETARY VANCE (REF A). I REPLIED THAT I HAD NO NEWS FOR HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00306 101707Z

3. WILLS ADMITTED THAT THE ECONOMY WAS "SHOT." IN DISCUSSING THE ECONOMY, HE DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM THOSE RUNNING THE ECONOMIC PLANNING IN THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S GOALS WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTAIN AT THE MOMENT. HE CRITICIZED THE "TEXTBOOK IDEOLOGUES"

WHOSE DOGMATISM LEADS TO DISASTER ON PRACTICAL MATTERS. HE SAID THAT WITH EACH PASSING DAY HIS HOPES FOR FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM NIGERIA AND LIBYA DIMINISHED. HE COMMENTED HOPEFULLY THAT VENEZUELA MIGHT COME THROUGH WITH SOME MONEY.

4. AFTER SAYING THAT BURNHAM HAD TURNED DOWN OFFERS TO GO TO MOSCOW AND CUBA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, WILLS SAID HE ALSO DID NOT WANT TO GO TO GREAT BRITIAN. HE HAD ASKED WILLS THAT MORNING (FEBRUARY 6) IF HE WOULD ASK ME FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR TREATMENT IN THE U.S. IF HE SHOULD NEED IT (REF B).

5. WILLS COMMENTED THAT CUBAN AMBASSADOR IVAN MARTINEZ AND HIS EMBASSY STILL MAINTAIN A DALLIANCE WITH CHEDDI JAGAN AND THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP). ALL OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY'S GUYANESE EMPLOYEES WERE MEMBERS OF THE PPP. THEN, WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF JAGAN AND THE CUBANS, HE SAID THAT THE NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE A STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE JAGAN'S THREAT. HE THEN SAID THAT THE CONSTITUTION WOULD TROUBLE THE UNITED STATES IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON THIS AND I CHOSE TO DEFER EXPLORATION OF THE ISSUE UNTIL OUR MEETING THE NEXT DAY.

6. CONTINUING HIS COMMENTS ON MARTINEZ, WILLS MENTIONED THAT THE CUBAN, AFTER IGNORING HIM LAST YEAR, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 00306 101707Z

HAD BEEN CULTIVATING HIM RECENTLY, EMPHASIZING THEIR RACIAL IDENTITIES. HE SAID THIS APPROACH ANGERS HIM, AND REMARKED THAT THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NO BLACKS IN ITS UPPER ECHELONS, YET THEY SENT A BLACK AMBASSADOR. WILLS THEN RAMBLED ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT MARTINEZ' BEHAVIOR AROUND TOWN.

7. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT WILLS: REFERRING AT ONE POINT TO GREAT BRITIAN, WILLS ADMITTED THAT HE HAD A PERSONAL "THING" (ANTAGONISM) ABOUT THE BRITISH. HE SAID HE DID NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THEIR PRESENCE AND DESCRIBED INCIDENTS WITH MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN GEORGETOWN IN WHICH HE FELT THEY HAD DEMIGRATED HIS CULTURAL LEVEL AND SOPHISTICATION. WILLS' DEROGATORY REMARKS ABOUT MARTINEZ' ATTEMPTS TO CAPITALIZE ON RACE, AND HIS "THING" ABOUT THE BRITISH REFLECT HIS AMBIVALENT SENSITIVITY ON THE SUBJECT OF RACE. HE APPEARS NOT SO MUCH ANTI-WHITE (EXCEPT PERHAPS WHEN IT SUITS HIM POLITICALLY TO BE SO) AS HE IS ANTI-BRITISH

OR INSECURE IN SOCIAL RELATIONS WITH WHITES WHOM HE BELIEVES
"PUT ON AIRS." NEVERTHELESS, THAT INSECURITY WHICH
SOME GUYANESE HAVE INHERITED FROM THEIR COLONIAL PAST
CAUSES HIM TO BE HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO PERSONAL SLIGHTS
BY WHITES, INTENDED OR NOT. HE IS A HIGHLY
INTELLIGENT, SENSITIVE, AND OFTEN MERCURIAL MAN. IN
AN INFORMAL SETTING, HE APPEARS TO RELAX THOROUGHLY AND
APPEARS TO ENJOY FREE-WHEELING GIVE AND TAKE REPARTEE
ON ALL SUBJECTS, INCLUDING RACE.
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE00306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-0422
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwng.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b25974c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 209, 77 GEORGETOWN 283
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3356818
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, FEBRUARY 6
TAGS: PFOR, GY, US, (WILLS, FREDERICK R), (BLACKEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b25974c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009